



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 16th November 2025

### Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

### Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

=====

### SUNDAY MASS

**Saturday Vigil:** 5pm (SL)

**Sunday:** 8:30am (SL),  
10:30am (ST),  
5pm (ST, Vietnamese)

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tues.** 6:30pm (SL)

**Wed.** 9.15am (ST)

*1st Wed Mass of Anointing  
@10am*

**Thurs.** 9.15am (ST)

**Fri.** 9.15am(SL\*),6.30pm (ST)

**Sat.** 9.15am (SL\*)

\*Rosary after Mass

### RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

### HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

Second weekend of each  
month - bring a plate to  
share (optional)

**YAM GROUP** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.  
each month at 7pm  
at St Luke's Presbytery

Malachi 3:19-20, Ps 97:5-9, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12,9

Gospel Reflection **Luke 21:5-19**

*Meditation: Jesus foretold many signs that would shake peoples and nations. The signs which God uses are meant to point us to a higher spiritual truth and reality of his kingdom which does not perish or fade away, but endures for all eternity. God works through many events and signs to purify and renew us in hope and to help us set our hearts more firmly on him and him alone.*

**First signs of the end times:** Jesus prophesied the destruction of the great temple at Jerusalem. The Jewish people took great pride in their temple, a marvel of the ancient world.

The foretelling of this destruction was a dire warning of spiritual judgment in itself. They asked Jesus for a sign that would indicate when this disastrous event would occur. Jesus admonished them to not look for signs that would indicate the exact timing of impending destruction, but rather to pray for God's intervention of grace and mercy. Jesus said there would be many signs of impending conflicts and disasters - such as wars, famines, diseases, tidal waves, and earthquakes - which would precede the struggles of the last days when God's anointed King would return to usher in the full reign of God over the earth. In that day when the Lord returns there will be a final judgement of the living and the dead when the secrets of every heart will be brought to light (Lk 12:2-3; Rom 2:16).

**Satan destroys and kills - God restores and gives life:** The real enemy of the good news of Jesus Christ - is Satan (also called Lucifer). Satan opposes God and all who follow his rule of peace and righteousness (moral goodness) on the earth. Satan will use any means possible to turn people away from God. He tempts people through envy, deception, hatred, and fear to provoke hostility towards those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

**What is Jesus' response to hostility and persecution?** Love, forbearance, and forgiveness. Only love - the love which is rooted in God's great compassion and faithfulness - can overcome prejudice, hatred, and envy. God's love purifies our heart and mind of all that would divide and tear people apart. Knowing God as our compassionate Father and loving God's word of truth and righteousness (moral goodness) is essential for overcoming evil. We do not need to fear those who would oppose us or treat us harshly for following the Lord Jesus. He promises to give us supernatural strength, wisdom, and courage as we take a stand for our faith and witness to the truth and love of Christ.

The Gospel is good news because it is God's eternal word of truth, love, pardon, and salvation (being set free from sin and evil) through his Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus has won the victory for us through his atoning death on the cross for our sins and his rising from the grave - his resurrection power that brings abundant life and restoration for us. The Gospel has power to set people free from sin, fear and death, and bring peace, pardon, and new life.

We do not need to fear our adversaries: What will attract others to the truth and power of the Gospel? When they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries. God will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Are you ready to lay down your life for Christ and to bear witness to the joy and freedom of the Gospel?



*The Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, Francesco Hayez (1867), Oil on canvas @ Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice, Italy*

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St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

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**Next Week's Daily Readings 17 Nov - 23**

**Nov**

**MONDAY, Nov 17** 1 Macc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64 Ps 118:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158 Lk 18:35-43

**St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious**

**TUESDAY, Nov 18** 2 Macc 6:18-31 Ps 3:2-7 Lk 19:1-10

**WEDNESDAY, Nov 19** 2 Macc 7:1, 20-31 Ps 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15 Lk 19:11-28

**THURSDAY, Nov 20** 1 Macc 2:15-29 Ps 49:1-2, 5-6, 14-15 Lk 19:41-44

**FRIDAY, Nov 21** 1 Macc 4:36-37, 52-59 1 Chron 29:10-12 Lk 19:45-48  
**The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary**

**SATURDAY, Nov 22** 1 Macc 6:1-13 Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19 Lk 20:27-40  
**St Cecilia, virgin, martyr**

**SUNDAY, Nov 23** 2 Sam 5:1-3 Ps 121:1-5 Col 1:12-20 Lk 23:35-43

**Our Lord JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE**

*(Taken from  
ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)*

**The Jubilee Prayer**



Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

**SOME USEFUL CATHOLIC RESOURCES:**

**PRAY AS YOU GO** (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/daily-meditation>)  
**HALLOW** (<https://hallow.com>):#1 prayer Catholic App  
**UNIVERSALIS** website and App. (<https://universalis.com/index.htm>)

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST  
5pm ST

**15 and 16 NOV**

Michael Ballek  
Steve Kilroe-Smith  
Trevis Yee  
Youth Group

**22 and 23 NOV**

Olive Hammill  
Edith Robertson  
Stefanie Chin  
Tung Lai, Gia Nghi & Chi Nguyen

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST  
5pm ST

Godfrey Thong  
Lynda Kilroe-Smith  
Chin L Tay  
Youth Group

Val Gardiner  
Kevin Rogers  
Jane D'Souza  
Hoang Nguyen

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST  
5pm ST

Choir  
Rosemary Donaldson  
Manny Gonzalez  
Theresa Nguyen

Choir  
David Prabha  
Lee Min Yee  
Toan Tran

**SL WELCOMERS 15-16 NOV**

5pm Edna Lee  
8.30am Margaret Gearon  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

29th Nov - Bianca's team  
Bianca Broccio, Shirley Prabha,  
Libby Theodore & Franca Leo

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

15th Nov: Kate Skowronska  
22nd Nov: Edna Lee

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Flowers: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 22-23 NOV**

5:00pm Libby Theodore  
8.30am Marie Pekish  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

22nd Nov @ 8am  
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,  
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

**ST COUNTERS**

This week Team 5:  
Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzales  
Next week Team 6:  
Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**All who are sick**, especially Mary Goodwin, Kevin Ryan, Agatha Wink, Ronda Smith, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Greal, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

**All who have died**, especially Fr Jim Staunton who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Alberto Fiorenza, Michael Barritt, Raymond Joseph, Mary Meade, Vin Smith, Mary Miller, Moya Atkins, Benvienido Ustaris, Peter Kelly, Christianus Peters, Colin Connelly, Alfie & Heather Morley, Mary Howard, Michael Haining, Carl Fergusson, Dulce Kelly, Teresa Shiels, Edgar Fernandes & Bertie Fernandes. May they rest in peace.

## POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER:

For the prevention of suicide. Let us pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care, and love they need in their community and be open to the beauty of life.

**iSTAND CONFERENCE:** Get ready for an unforgettable day! Join us Saturday, 22nd November from 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM at St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church Hall for a powerful one-day event designed for Year 8–12 students. Be inspired. Make new friends. Encounter God in a whole new way. Scan the QR code to register or contact Anthony Bolling at 0419 103 511 for more info.



**COLUMBAN CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS:** 2026 Calendars are on sale at the St Timothy's Piety Stall for \$9.00. Christmas Cards are also on sale. Packs of 5 cards are \$5.00 and \$10.00 for a pack of 10 cards. Calendars & cards are available at St Luke's for a donation into the poor box in the church foyer.

**ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS FOR SALE:** A new reflection resource, "In Holy Stillness" is available for purchase for \$5 per copy in the foyer of both churches. Payment can be made by card or in cash to Fr Alex.

**RED NOVEMBER:** Pray for persecuted Christians. Aid to the Church in Need invites all Catholics to remember, pray for and support persecuted Christians throughout Red November. Please pray especially for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, Sudan and the Middle East, where Christians are facing grave danger right now. Watch the official video and download your Red Rosary prayer card by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.rednovember.org](http://www.rednovember.org)



**DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR:** In-person Safeguarding Essentials training for all parish volunteers will be on Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at St Timothy's from 11.45 to 1pm. It can also be done online via this link: [Safeguarding Essentials training module](#). | [Melbourne Catholic](#)

Resources ....

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** [A time to remember](#)

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** [You Are My Hope](#)

## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

*The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.*

*The Second collection is for parish expenses.*

**ST:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$441.15

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$342.05

Vietnamese Donation: \$291

**SL:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Total Collection: \$580.55

Last week's Church Stewardship Total Collection: \$625

## Parish Groups & Contacts

### **Volunteers and Rosters**

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

### **Baptism Preparation**

ST: Mary Italiano

### **Vietnamese Community**

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

### **Vietnamese Youth**

Theresa Nguyen

### **Parish Collection Preparers**

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

### **Stewardship Counters**

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

### **Parishes Safeguarding Committee**

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

### **Parish history**

SL: Margaret Gearon

### **Parish Accountant**

Bernard Negline

### **SL: Hall Hire**

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

### **Church Sacristan**

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

### **Church Housekeeping**

ST: Margaret King

### **Church Cleaning & Flowers**

SL: Megan McLean

### **Church Linen**

SL: Beryl Chelliah

### **Parish Garden Maintenance**

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

### **Parish Choirs**

ST: Miguel Ilagan & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

### **St Vincent de Paul Conference**

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

### **Parish Contacts:**

ST: John McCoy

SL: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia!

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**Communion Antiphon:** To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

Go out to the whole world;  
proclaim the **Good News**  
to all creation.  
MARK 16:15



THE  
ARCHBISHOP'S  
CAMPAIGN  
2025

We are delighted to share the wonderful success of the Archbishop's Campaign and extend our heartfelt thanks for your generosity and support. Together, parishes across the Archdiocese have raised over \$1.1 million, including \$3,417 contributed by Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish, Blackburn South and \$2,505 contributed by St Timothy's Parish, Forest Hill.

These funds will help with Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College, and the Archbishop's Evangelisation Initiatives. Thank you for your commitment and for expressing your faith through your generous response.

### RED NOVEMBER ROSARIES & MASSES

St Luke the Evangelist - 5.30pm Rosary & 6.30pm Mass on  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
St Timothy's - 5.30pm Rosary & 6.30pm Mass on  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST TIMOTHY'S

On Sunday 23rd November, we will continue our Children's Liturgy group at the 10.30am Mass at St Timothy's. This will run on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. Parents are welcome to accompany their children. No prior registration required. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.



### Young Adult Ministry (18-35 Yrs)

**WHEN:** Wed. 19 Nov. @ 7pm  
**WHERE:** St Luke's Presbytery,  
46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South



**TOPIC: What is love?** How can I find genuine love and friendship? Loving those around me. What does it mean to know that I am loved by God?

An evening of nibbles, praise & worship, talk, sharing & games to deepen our relationship with Christ in a fun, safe and inclusive environment. Further enquiries to Jerisy or Sarah at [luktimyam@gmail.com](mailto:luktimyam@gmail.com)

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF  
VICTORIA AND WAGGA WAGGA



Coffee  
& Croissants  
WITH  
Katie



**WOMEN'S  
BREAKFAST**

**THURSDAY  
4 DECEMBER 2025  
7.30am – 8.45am**

Join us for a special conversation  
as Fr Nathan Rawlins sits down  
with international speaker  
Katie Prejean McGrady  
exploring faith and life.



VICTORIA HOTEL  
215 LITTLE COLLINS ST  
MELBOURNE

\$45 (incl. Continental Breakfast)  
\$35 for League Members  
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[info@cwlvicww.org.au](mailto:info@cwlvicww.org.au) / [cwlvicww.org.au](http://cwlvicww.org.au)  
Bookings close 27 Nov (unless sold out).



### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a 5 month program for those who are interested and would like to know more about the Catholic faith as well as the possibility to encounter Jesus Christ in a personal way. It is a journey together with other enquirers as well as parishioners. The RCIA program will continue on Tuesday, November 18th @ 7pm at St Luke's Presbytery, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South. It will run till March 2026 with weekly meetings (1.5hrs) both in person and via Zoom. For more information or to join in please contact the parish office.

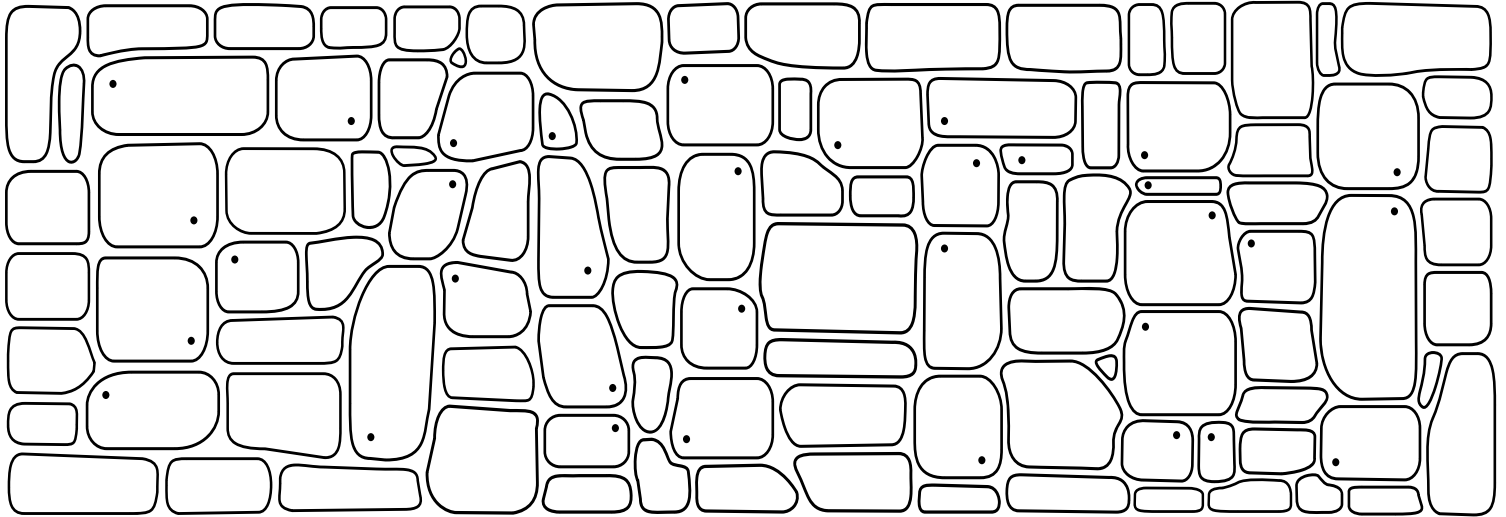


**SYMBOLON**  
THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED

You will be saved  
by being faithful

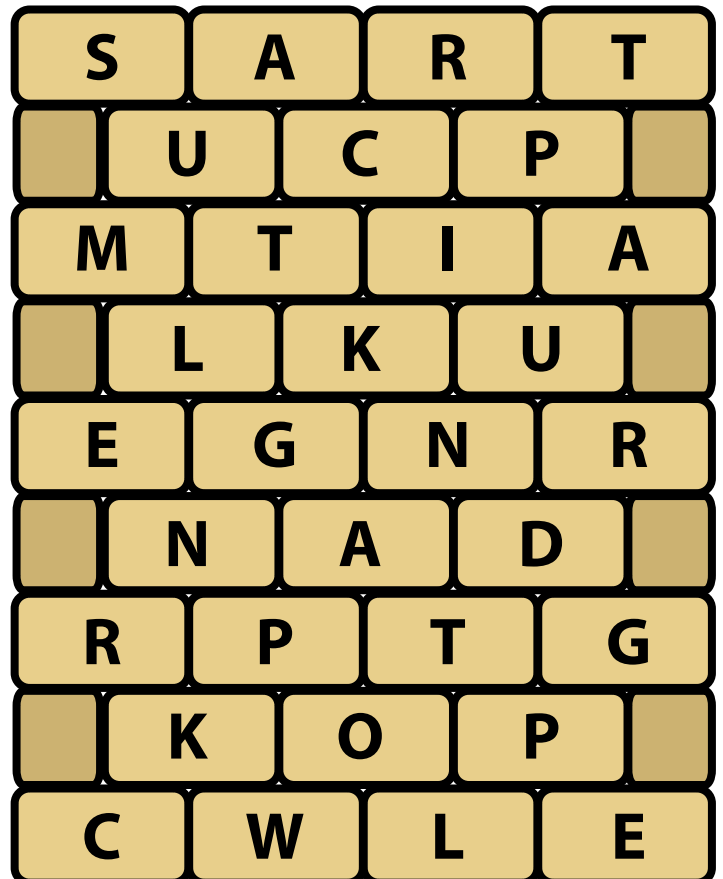
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Colour in the stones marked with a dot to reveal something we need if we are to be saved.

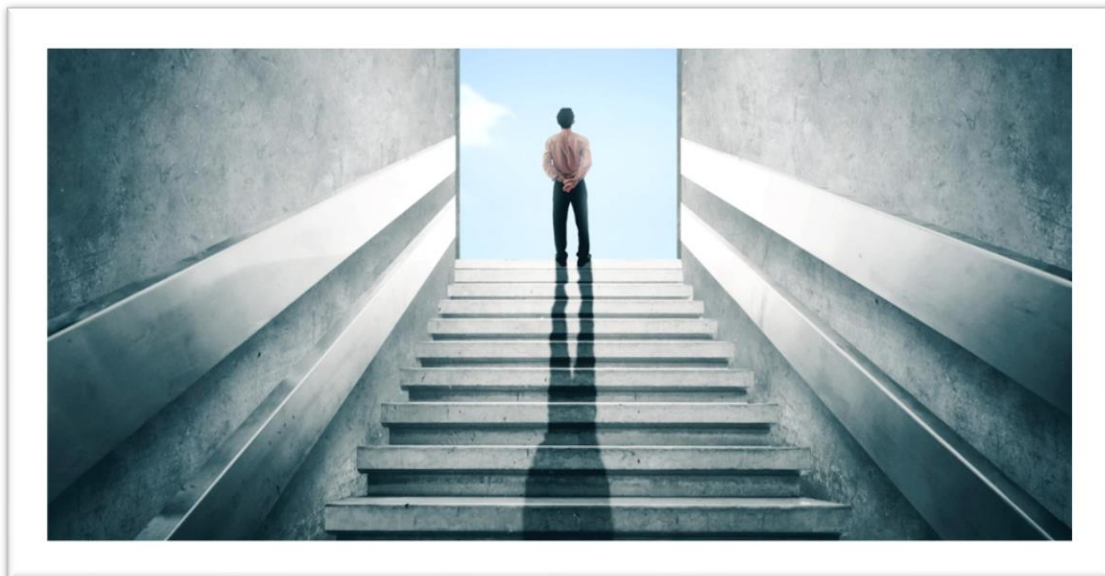


Jesus tells us that even though bad things might happen around us, we should not be afraid. In the stones below, write down some things that might make us afraid?

Cross out all letters that appear more than once. Unscramble the remaining letters to reveal what Jesus gives to us so that we know what to say when we defend ourselves.



# 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 16 NOVEMBER 2025



## COLLECT

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,  
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,  
for it is full and lasting happiness  
to serve with constancy  
the author of all that is good.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

It seems the end of the world could be quite entertaining, judging from the very large number of games and movies that focus on planetary disaster, Armageddon, and the zombie apocalypse. Other doomsday scenarios are more serious and bleak – those which arise from pessimism about climate change or nuclear war, for example. What is one to think?

The gospel offers us a confusing mix of historical events and apocalyptic imagination. On the one hand, there is the destruction of the Temple and the persecution of Christians. On the other hand, there is talk of great earthquakes, plagues and famines with fearful sights and great signs from heaven. Ultimately, the purpose of passages like this is to support Christians who are doing it tough. Yes, there will be war and violence, natural disaster and persecution. *But your endurance will win you your lives.*

In Christ, his death and resurrection, the victory has been won. Good will triumph in the end. The final expectation is that the kingdom of God will be established forever. As one of our Eucharistic Prayers says, we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth where the fullness of your peace will shine forth in Christ Jesus the Lord (EP Reco II).

### A reading from the prophet Malachi 3:19–20

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

### First Reading

The short book of Malachi (the ‘messenger’) is trenchantly critical of the nation for failing to abide by the covenant.

These five lines are from an oracle about the coming of the Day of the Lord. It will be a judgement day of burning for sinners but healing for the faithful.

The text is direct and clear. As befits a prophetic oracle, the proclamation should be strong with the contrast clearly expressed.

Because it is so short, the reader should wait for the assembly to settle before beginning.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:5–9

**R.** The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;  
the world, and all its peoples.

Let the rivers clap their hands  
and the hills ring out their joy  
at the presence of the Lord. **R.**

For the Lord comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.  
He will rule the world with justice  
and the people with fairness. **R.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97/98 acclaims the Lord who comes to rule the world with justice and fairness. This is no doomsday scenario. There is music – harp, trumpet and horn. There is clapping to acclaim the presence of the Lord – clapping by the people, by the rivers and the sea, the thunder and the hills. The text cries out to be sung not read.

This psalm plays an important role in today’s Liturgy of the Word by presenting an optimistic and triumphant glimpse of the end of the world when God will rule over all the earth.

Care is required on the part of the cantor/reader with the second stanza which has an extra line.

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul  
to the Thessalonians 3:7–12**

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you; not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Luke 21:5–19**

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

**Second Reading**

The context of this letter to the Thessalonians is the Day of the Lord which they expected would come soon. The question concerns their behaviour in view of the expected return of Christ in glory. Some of them are 'disorderly' (the word *ataktoi* means more than 'idle'), disrupting the regular life of the community. Paul offers his own life and ministry as an example and urges them to 'go on quietly working and earning their keep'. No one is to be a burden on anyone else.

In light of some of the alarmist and apocalyptic opinions present in the early Church, Paul's advice here is calming and sensible. This is the tone the reader should adopt in proclaiming the text.

**Gospel**

Both Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed in 70 AD, a decade or more before Luke's gospel was written. This catastrophic event is related to the end of the world and to Jesus' own fate. His disciples are likewise to expect trial and suffering, but like Christ, they will not be harmed; instead, their endurance will win them their lives. Curiously then the gospel message is not meant to terrify but to strengthen the disciples.

People will come saying, the end is nigh! There will be upheaval – wars and revolutions, earthquakes and fearful sights. *Do not be frightened, says Jesus, the end is not so soon.* There will be persecution and imprisonment, *and that will be your opportunity to bear witness.* Through it all, Christ will be with them. For the early Church, this gospel offers a message of encouragement and consolation.

Variation in pace will help the effective proclamation of this turbulent text, speeding up when listing wars and fearsome signs, but slowing down when Christ urges the disciples to have confidence in him.

# CONCLUDING PRAYER

## Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time III)

May almighty God bless us in his kindness  
and pour out saving wisdom upon us.

**Amen.**

May he nourish us always with the teachings of the faith  
and make us persevere in holy deeds.

**Amen.**

May he turn our steps towards himself  
and show us the path of charity and peace.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

**Amen.**

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III, Roman Missal p. 715)



JOIN THE MELBOURNE YOUTH MISSION TEAM

22 NOV  
2025

9AM - 9PM

in the

SSAULTS

A CATHOLIC  
YOUTH RETREAT  
FOR HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS IN  
YRS 8-12

FOR GAMES, FELLOWSHIP,  
FOOD & FORMATION

WHERE:

ST LUKE'S PARISH HALL  
46 ORCHARD GROVE  
BLACKBURN SOUTH  
VIC 3130

CONTACT:

MELBOURNE MANAGER  
ANTHONY BOLLING  
0419 103 511



REGISTRATION: [YMT.COM.AU/ISTANDEVENTS](https://www.ymt.com.au/istandevents)



ST. LUKES SCHOOL  
BLACKBURN SOUTH



# St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

## We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

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BOOK A  
TOUR



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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

TO GREECE & TURKEY (WITH ROME OPTION)



20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL –  
3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2026

LED BY  
FR ALEX CHOW

14  
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE:  
per person (twin share)

AUD\$ 8,490\*

OPTIONAL SINGLE  
ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

AUD\$ 1,150

FULLY  
ESCORTED

\*Conditions apply. Subject to change.  
Price estimated based on group  
size of 20 pilgrims. Actual pricing  
will be known in late May 2025.

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*'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres'. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)*

*'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*

*'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love'*

*(Ephesians 4:2)*

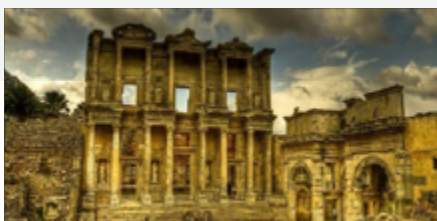
Such passionate, life giving, encouraging and hopeful words written by St Paul the Apostle. Come and join us for an extraordinary pilgrimage of Greece and Turkey and (optional Rome extension) as we follow the footsteps of St Paul and experience the contexts in which these passionate letters were written. It will be an opportunity of spiritual renewal, deepen our relationship with God as we reflect and experience the incredible journey of Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

REGISTER FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION at 7pm ON THURSDAY, 5th JUNE

\* Enjoy full travel briefing \* Meet your fellow Pilgrims \* Have your questions answered

CONTACT FR ALEX OR OLIVE TREE TRAVEL TO REGISTER & GET THE DETAILS



### NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Alex or Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE.](#)
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person is payable by 16th June 2025 (unless sold out prior)
3. Final balances will be due by late February 2026.



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696  
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103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



### DAY 1 MONDAY 20TH APRIL

### DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Melbourne this evening on your Emirates flight to Dubai. On arrival, transfer to your connecting flight to Athens.

### DAY 2 TUESDAY 21ST APRIL

### ARRIVE ATHENS

Arrive in Athens today. Athens is the thriving capital of Greece but more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys. On arrival in **Athens** we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure. Athens overnight (D)

### DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

### ATHENS - CORINTH – ATHENS

Journey out to **Ancient Corinth** where the Apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God and converting many. We visit the ancient ruins and see the site where he preached the Gospel from the **Rostrum**. Also visit the Peirene fountain, and the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting. Finally we come to **Cenchreae**, the ancient port from where Paul said farewell to the believers and departed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18). Return to Athens in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight. (BD)

### DAY 4 THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

### ATHENS

When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city that worshipped pagan gods. St Paul was taken before the city council at the Areopagus Hill, a rough outcrop of limestone rock from which he preached the Gospel message to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:16-21). We begin our day with a tour of **Christian Athens** including the **Acropolis**, the **Areopagus** where St Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of "the Unknown God" (Acts 17:15-34) and the **Parthenon**. Continue for a visit the **Ancient Agora** and a bus tour to see the highlights of the city including the Kallimarmaro Stadium, dating back to 330 B.C. and restored for the first modern Olympic Games held here in 1896. Visit to the New Acropolis museum. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Athens. (BD)

### DAY 5 FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

### ATHENS – METEORA – KALAMBAKA

Depart this morning and travel north to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of **Meteora**. Marvel at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their Monastic community of Meteora. We visit two of the Byzantine Meteora monasteries. Among striking scenery and perched on top of huge rocks, the ageless monasteries of Meteora seem to be suspended in mid-air. The monasteries contain beautiful Byzantine art and offer an insight to the mystic world of the monks still residing there. Mass this evening, will be held in a private room at the hotel before dinner and overnight in Kalambaka (BD)

### DAY 6 SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

### KALAMBAKA – VERGINA – VERIA – THESSALONIKI

Depart this morning to **Vergina**, the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom. Here we visit the "Vergina findings", treasures of Ancient Macedonia and the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. A few minutes away is Veria, located on the ruins of **Ancient Beroea**, is one of Apostle Paul's stops. Here we see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. Continue our drive to Thessaloniki. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

### DAY 7 SUNDAY 26TH APRIL

### THESSALONIKI

Today is for Thessaloniki exploration. Welcome to Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. See the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius and the Roman Agora where St Paul once preached. We shall visit St Demetrios' Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and will drive up to the upper town, which offers a marvellous view of the city. We will also have the chance to celebrate Mass at the Catholic Church. Dinner & overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

### DAY 8 MONDAY 27TH APRIL

### PHILIPPI – KAVALA – THESSALONIKI

Arise and journey along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to nearby Philippi, named after Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40). Visit the Baptistery of Lydia for a beautiful outdoor Mass on the River Zygaktis, and renew

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our Baptismal vows. Visit the market place (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. We will also see the famous Acropolis, Basilica and the theatre. It was here that he established the first Christian Church in Europe. Visit the Octagonal church, an early Christian monument thought to be built on the site where St. Paul had established a house of prayer. Finally, we drive to the port in Kavala (Neapolis in New Testament times), where Paul landed with Timothy, Silas, and Luke. Return to your hotel in Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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**DAY 9 TUESDAY 28TH APRIL** **THESSALONIKI – IZMIR (SMYRNA) - KUSADASI** This morning, we depart Thessaloniki Airport for our flight to Izmir (via Istanbul or Athens). Upon arrival we will be met by our Turkish guide and commence our touring programme by visiting the Ruins of Ancient Smyrna, one of the 7 Churches. After the Agora visit we will drive to the coastal city of Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (D)

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**DAY 10 WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL** **EPHESUS PILGRIMAGE**  
 Today we visit the famous city of Ephesus. Ephesus, as we will see, is in a very good state of preservation and the overall existing view of this ancient city will make it evident that she was a wealthy, cultural, and commercial centre in the 1st century. Paul's preaching in the area resulted with the uproar of the Guild of Silversmiths and the evangelisation of the whole province of Asia. Highlights include the ancient temple to the Roman Emperor, the 'slope' houses, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan, the brothel, and the large theatre in which the riot of Acts 19 took place. Not far from the theatre, we visit the Church of St Mary, where it is said that Mary spent the later years of her life. Celebrate Mass. Finally you will visit the restored remains of the 6th century Basilica of St John at Celcuk where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist. Return to your hotel in Kusadasi for dinner and overnight (BD)

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**DAY 11 THURSDAY 30TH APRIL** **KUSADASI - ISTANBUL** After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for Izmir Airport to catch our flight at 10:00AM. On arrival, we will be met and transferred to old city to visit Basilica Cistern, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city. We'll also get to see one of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. This afternoon visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and nearby Hagia Sophia (meaning 'Holy Wisdom'). Built in 548 AD, Hagia Sophia was the greatest Church in Christendom until 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire. Onwards then to the Grand Bazaar, with over 4000 exotic tiny shops. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

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**DAY 12 FRIDAY 01ST MAY** **ISTANBUL**  
 Commence the day with a special morning cruise along the Bosphorus River, where you will sail past the Ottoman Palaces, Byzantine fortresses, Beylerbeyi Palace and Suleiman's Mosque. An opportunity to celebrate Mass at a Catholic Church. Enjoy a brief visit to Topkapi Palace. After the visit, transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

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**DAY 13 SATURDAY 02ND MAY** **ISTANBUL - AUSTRALIA**  
 End your pilgrimage with a transfer to Istanbul Airport for your departure flight to Dubai. Transfer to your connecting flight back to Melbourne. (B)

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**DAY 14 SUNDAY 03RD MAY** **ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**  
 Arrive back to Melbourne this evening with wonderful memories from your pilgrimage!

\*\*

Itinerary subject to change \*\*

**Interested in continuing the Footsteps of St Paul and visiting other amazing sites in Rome?**

Instead of flying straight home from Istanbul, we will hold a limited number of seats out of Rome, allowing pilgrims to enjoy an independently arranged Rome Pilgrimage in the Eternal city and surroundings as organized with/by Fr Alex Chow.

Fr Alex has lived in Rome as a seminarian for 4 years. Fr. Alex has offered to assist pilgrims in finding

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modest but clean and comfortable accommodation. The Roman stay will consist of the following (depending on time availability):

1. Sites of St Paul: Basilica of St Paul Outside the Wall, Tre Fontana (where St Paul was imprisoned and executed), via Ostiense (where St Peter and St Paul met in Rome)
2. 3 major Pontifical Basilica: Basilica of St Peter, Basilica of Mary Major, Basilica of John Lateran
3. Churches of Saints of the Roman Canon: St Cosmos and Damian, St Clement, St Agnes in Agony, St Cecilia, St Bartholomew
4. Beautiful Rome: Colosseum, Rome Forum, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza di Popolo, etc...
5. Churches of the Passion of Jesus Christ: Church of the Holy Steps, Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, Basilica di Santa Prassede (Column of the Flagellation)
6. Elegant Churches: San Luigi dei Francesi (Caravaggio - calling of Matthew), Basilica of Saint Mary of Minerva (the tomb of St Catherine of Siena), Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria (Bernini's dramatic carving "The Ecstasy of Teresa."), Chiesa del Gesu.

**\*\*Olive Tree Travel will arrange your flight from Istanbul – Rome\*\***

## PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Emirates Flight from Melbourne to Athens via Dubai and then return Istanbul to Melbourne via Dubai
- One way flight from Thessaloniki to Izmir
- One way flight from Izmir to Istanbul
- 11 nights in total: 7 nights in Greece and 4 nights in Turkey in hotel accommodation in twin share rooms.
- Breakfast and Dinner daily. Breakfasts and Dinners at hotels unless otherwise specified.
- All tips, gratuities and portorage (where available)
- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Air-conditioned coach

## NOT INCLUDED:

- Drinks with meals
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals, laundry
- Lunches
- Turkey Visa – currently US\$66 and obtained privately before departure

## HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

• Hotel Luwian	Athens	3 nights
• Hotel Amalia	Kalambaka	1 night
• Hotel Imperial Plus	Thessaloniki	3 nights
• Korumar Hotel	Kusadasi	2 nights
• Port Bosphorous Hotel	Istanbul	2 nights

## NEXT STEPS

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3. Final balances will be due by late February 2026.

## WHO TO CONTACT:

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 South and St Timothy Forest Hill  
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By  
Olivia  
Dawson